

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims

The Examiner rejected claims 25-49. By this amendment, independent claims 25 and 36 have been amended, and dependent claims 27, 34, 38, and 46 have been cancelled. Therefore claims 25-26, 28-33, 35-37, 39-45, and 47-49 remain pending in the application.

Claim Rejections 35 USC 103

The Examiner appears to have accepted all of the Applicant's previous arguments overcoming Merchant et al. (US Pat. No. 5,581,366) and Tanaka (US Pat. No. 4,494,862). However, the Examiner has performed an additional search and rejected all of the claims over new art to Wang et al (US Pat. No. 5,848,426) in view of Lemelson (US Pat. No. 3,918,029). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Applicants assert that the Wang et al. reference does not teach the present invention as defined in the presently amended claims. Wang et al disclose automatic data translation between different business systems using printed forms that include standard prior art bar codes. The claimed invention however employs individual coded sheets of paper called netpages, which are very different from the devices and methods described in Wang et al. The forms of Wang et al including printed bar codes thereon do not suggest the invisible coded data of the presently amended claims that are printed substantially simultaneously with visible user information on a printed interactive sheet. The disclosure of Lemelson also does not teach the limitations of the presently amended claims.

The present amended claims do not claim the simple act of printing invisible coded data (as is well known in the art); rather, the present amended claims include the limitation that "*the visible information and the invisible coded data are printed substantially simultaneously and wherein at the time of printing a computer system associates the type and spatial extent of the coded data with the spatial extent of at least some of the visible information.*" The Applicants assert that such automatic association between visible information and invisible coded data is novel and non-obvious over the prior art cited by the Examiner.

The Examiner has acknowledged that Wang does not teach that the interaction data is indicative of a position of the sensing device relative to the area on the paper surface. The Examiner however asserts that Lemelson does provide such a teaching. The Applicant respectfully asserts that the argument of the Examiner is moot in light of the present claim amendments. That is because Lemelson clearly does not teach the above limitation concerning associating the type and spatial extent of the coded data with the spatial extent of at least some of the visible information. The recordings 108, 109, 110, 111, etc. of Lemelson do not define the spatial extent of the corresponding visual indicia, symbols or characters 112, 113, 114, 115, etc. of Lemelson.

Thus none of the references cited by the Examiner disclose or suggest the interactive sheets of the present invention. Further, the above claim limitations of the present amendment distinguish the present invention over other prior art of record that is not presently relied upon by the Examiner, such as the reference to Dymetman, M., and Copperman, M., "Intelligent Paper in Electronic Publishing, Artistic Imaging, and Digital Typography," Proceedings of EP '98, March/April 1998, Springer Verlag LNCS 1375, pp. 392-406. Dymetman et al teaches position-indicating invisible coded data that are pre-printed in bulk on paper sheets, where the sheets are then used later by a publisher who prints visible information on the sheets and manually associates the invisible coded data with the visible information.

The Applicants assert that the claim limitations added by the present amendment define significant and valuable commercial advantages over the prior art, which advantages are clearly recited in the specification. For example, the specification as filed at page 8, lines 23-24, states that interactive pages of the present invention "... *are pages of text, graphics and images printed on ordinary paper, but which work like interactive web pages.*" The conveniences of such interactive pages--which can be printed quickly by a single printer--were not possible using the systems and methods of the prior art. Clearly the features of such interactive pages are not disclosed or fairly suggested in either Wang et al. or Lemelson.

Support for the present amendments is found throughout the specification as originally filed. For example, the substantially simultaneous printing of visible inks and invisible infrared inks is found in the specification as filed at page 24, lines 13-14: "*The printer simultaneously prints cyan, magenta, yellow, black, and infrared inks as well as paper conditioner and ink fixative.*" Further, support for the limitation concerning the association in the computer system of the spatial extent of the visible information and the invisible coded data is found in the specification as filed at page 9, lines 7-13: "*The netpage consists of graphic data 2 printed using visible ink, and coded data 3 printed as a collection of tags 4 using invisible ink. The corresponding page description 5, stored on the netpage network, describes the individual elements of the netpage. In particular it describes the type and spatial extent (zone) of each interactive element (i.e. text field or button in the example), to allow the netpage system to correctly interpret input via the netpage. The submit button 6, for example, has a zone 7 which corresponds to the spatial extent of the corresponding graphic 8.*"

The Applicants assert that the rejections of the remaining dependent claims are now moot in light of the above amendments to the independent claims. Thus the Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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